

# Animals that Live in the Sea







SEA FAN OR GORGONIAN



# Animals that Live in the Sea

By Joan Ann Straker



An  
octopus  
uses its  
eight arms  
to crawl  
on the  
ocean floor.

 BOOKS FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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The sea is a home  
for many different  
kinds of animals.

There is a strange  
and beautiful world  
in the waters of the sea.  
It is full of creatures very different  
from the animals that live on land.

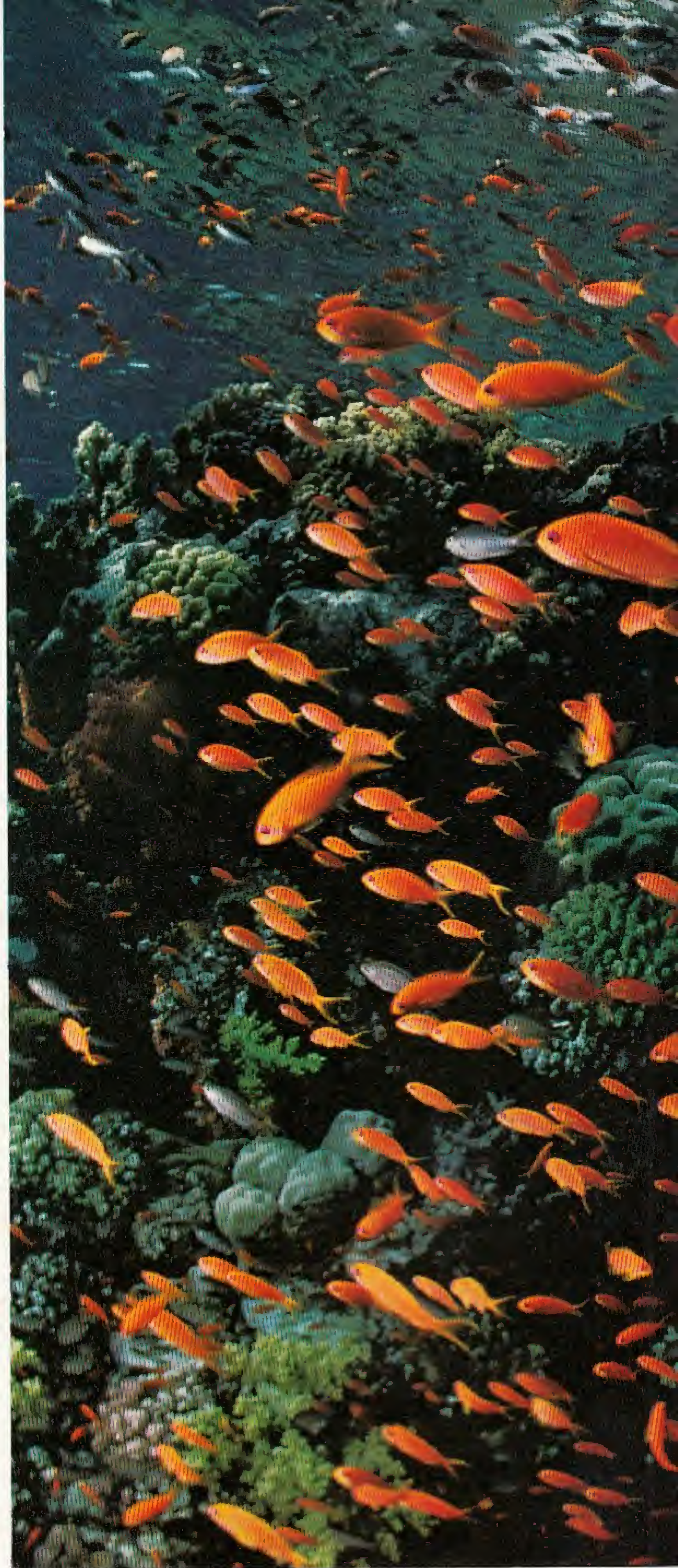
Imagine you are deep in the ocean.  
You can see fishes in bright colors.  
You may find a yellow sea slug  
and a starfish with five arms.  
There are also many other animals  
that you have never seen before.



SEA SLUG OR NUDIBRANCH



KNOBBED STARFISH









# There are many kinds of fishes.

Fishes have many shapes and sizes.

Some are so strange that you might think they are not fish.



SEA HORSE



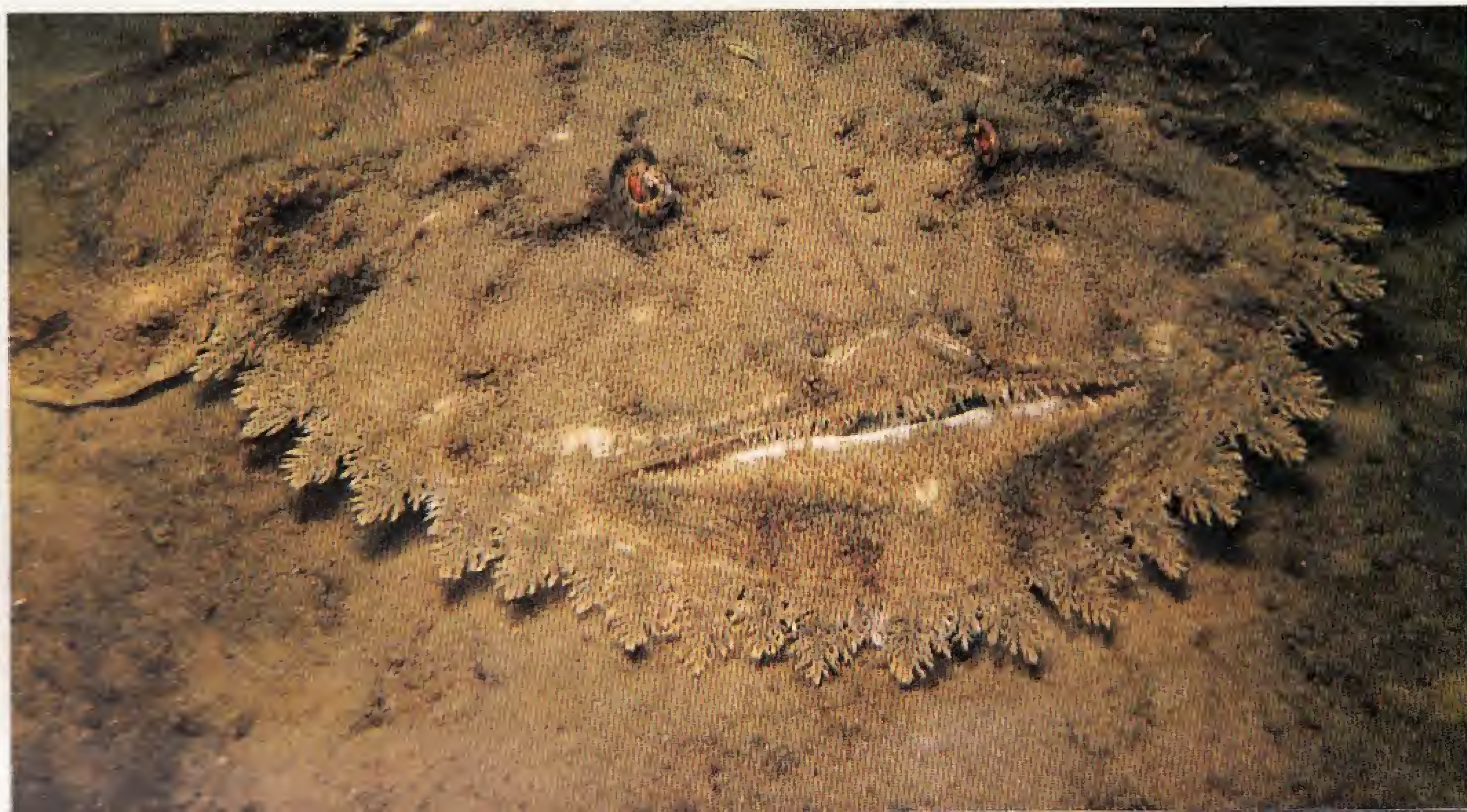
BUTTERFLY FISH

Yellow and black stripes make this fish as bright as a butterfly.

Sea horses are the only fish that use their tails to hold onto things underwater.

A goosefish lies flat as a pancake on the bottom of the ocean.

GOOSEFISH







FROGFISH

A lumpy frogfish looks like an orange blob in the sea.





BLUE SHARK



STINGRAY



MANTA RAY





## **Sharks and rays are fishes, too.**

The blue shark is a very good hunter.  
It swims so fast it almost always catches the fish it chases.

Rays are fish with very flat bodies.  
The spotted stingray has fins that circle its body.  
It wiggles them as it swims.  
The huge manta ray has large fins that look like wings.  
It also has smaller fins on the sides of its mouth.

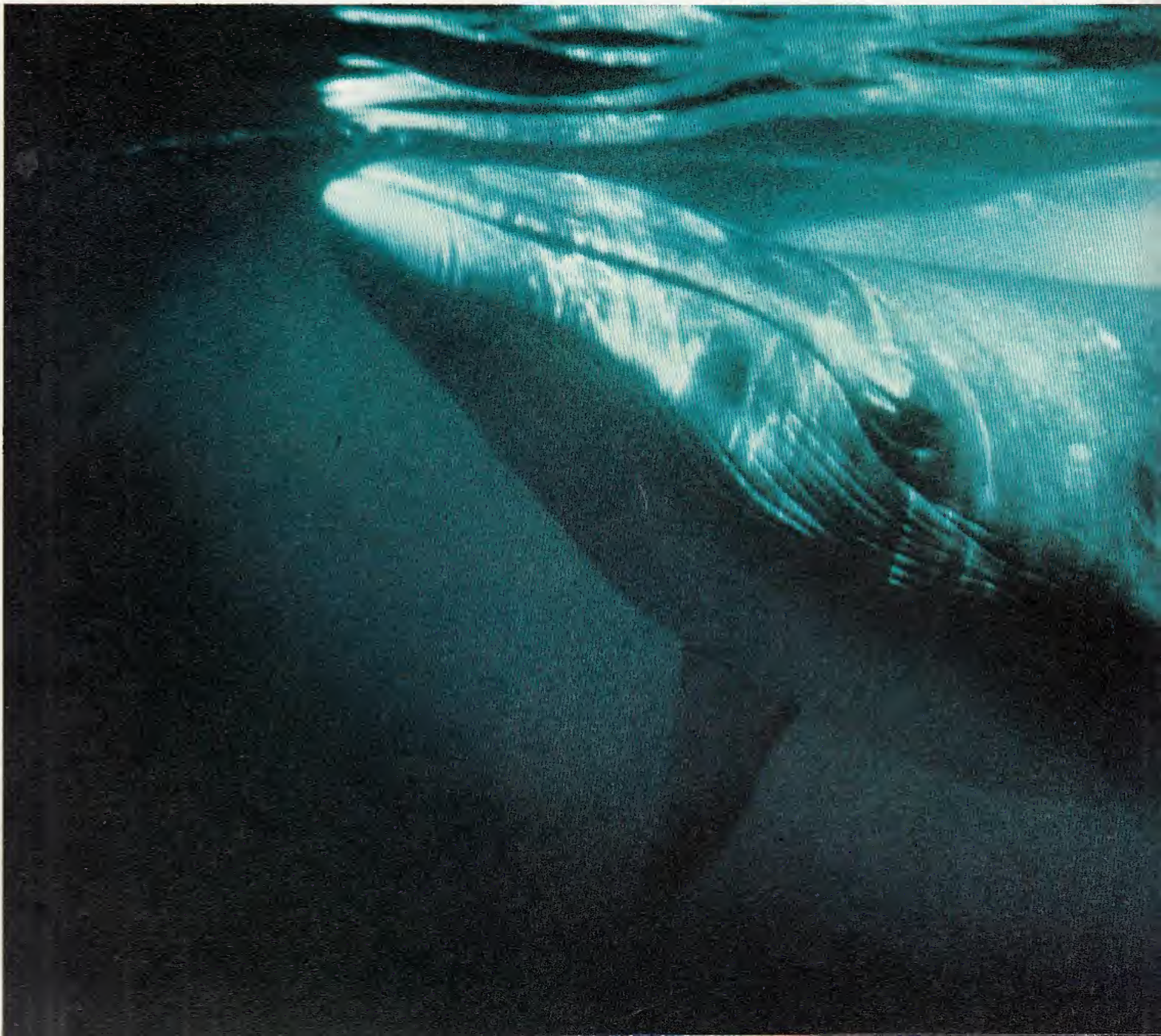




Some animals  
are fast swimmers.



YELLOWFIN TUNA







Tuna are among the fastest fishes in the sea.

The shape of their long, smooth bodies helps them speed along.



This mighty whale is a large and heavy mammal. It also has a long, smooth body and can move easily through the water.





TUGUESE  
-OF-WAR



## These animals float in the sea.

A Portuguese man-of-war floats in the water like a purple balloon. It will eat the fish it has caught in its long tentacles.

The starfish floats when it is young and has a tail. When the starfish is grown, it loses its tail and lives on the bottom of the sea.

The striped jellyfish moves slowly in the water by opening and closing its umbrella top.



STARFISH LARVA



STRIPED JELLYFISH



## Some animals hardly move at all.

These strawberry sponges look like vases. Sponges stay in one spot most of their lives and feed on the tiny plants that float in the sea.

The yellow sea pen is an animal that looks like a feather. It buries its stem in the mud to hold its place on the seafloor.



STRAWBERRY SPONGES



SEA PEN

Sea anemones are animals that look like flowers. A hungry sea anemone has opened its tentacles to catch food. The other closes them to eat what it has caught.

WHITE-SPOTTED SEA ANEMONES











## There are many kinds of coral.



SEA FAN



BUBBLE CORAL

In some places in the sea, there are groups of animals that look like plants or rocks. These animals are called corals. Corals have many different shapes and colors. Can you guess why the purple coral is called a sea fan? Look closely at the yellow coral and you will find a starfish.



PRECIOUS CORAL

This piece of bright coral looks like a tree branch. Many small coral creatures live there. These animals stretch out their white tentacles to feed.



**Many fishes live  
among the corals.**

Corals create places in the sea  
called coral reefs.

There many fishes hide and find their food.  
A parrotfish scrapes small plants and animals  
off the coral with its strong, sharp teeth.



PARROTFISH



Parrotfish have large teeth that show all the time. So these fish always seem to be smiling.



PARROTFISH

The long-nosed hawkfish matches the colors of the coral where it lives.



HAWKFISH





LOBSTERS





GARIBALDI AND STARFISH

## **These animals are defending their homes.**

Two lobsters are fighting  
with their claws.

One lobster has knocked  
the other over on its side.

They will fight to the death.

A lobster will attack an animal  
that comes near its home.

An orange garibaldi protects its home, too.  
When a starfish comes near,  
the garibaldi picks it up  
and moves it away.





SCALLOPS

STARFISH

A hungry starfish has caught a scallop. The starfish pulls and pulls. It is trying to pull the scallop's shells apart to eat the animal inside. The other scallops speed away as fast as they can. Scallops move by opening their shells and snapping them together.



**One animal  
becomes food for another.**



SEA ANEMONE AND STARFISH

In another part of the ocean, a sea anemone has caught a starfish.  
The anemone stings the starfish so it cannot move.  
The anemone pulls the starfish into its mouth.  
Do you see the starfish in the tentacles of the anemone?



**These fish swim together  
for safety.**

These goatfish live and swim together  
in a group. A group of the same kind  
of fish is called a school.





If a hungry animal swims near so many fish,  
it may become confused and not be able to pick out a single one.  
Many fish spend most of their lives in the same school.

COATFISH







**These fishes  
are hiding  
in safe places.**

A school of little blue fish swims among branches of coral. They are safe there because bigger fish cannot follow them.

A small pearlfish lives inside a gray sea cucumber. It wiggles out to hunt for food.





DAMSELFISH

This blenny is a tiny fish  
with big eyes.  
It peeks out of a tube  
it has found.  
The tube was built by a sea worm.



BLENNY



SEA CUCUMBER  
AND  
PEARLFISH





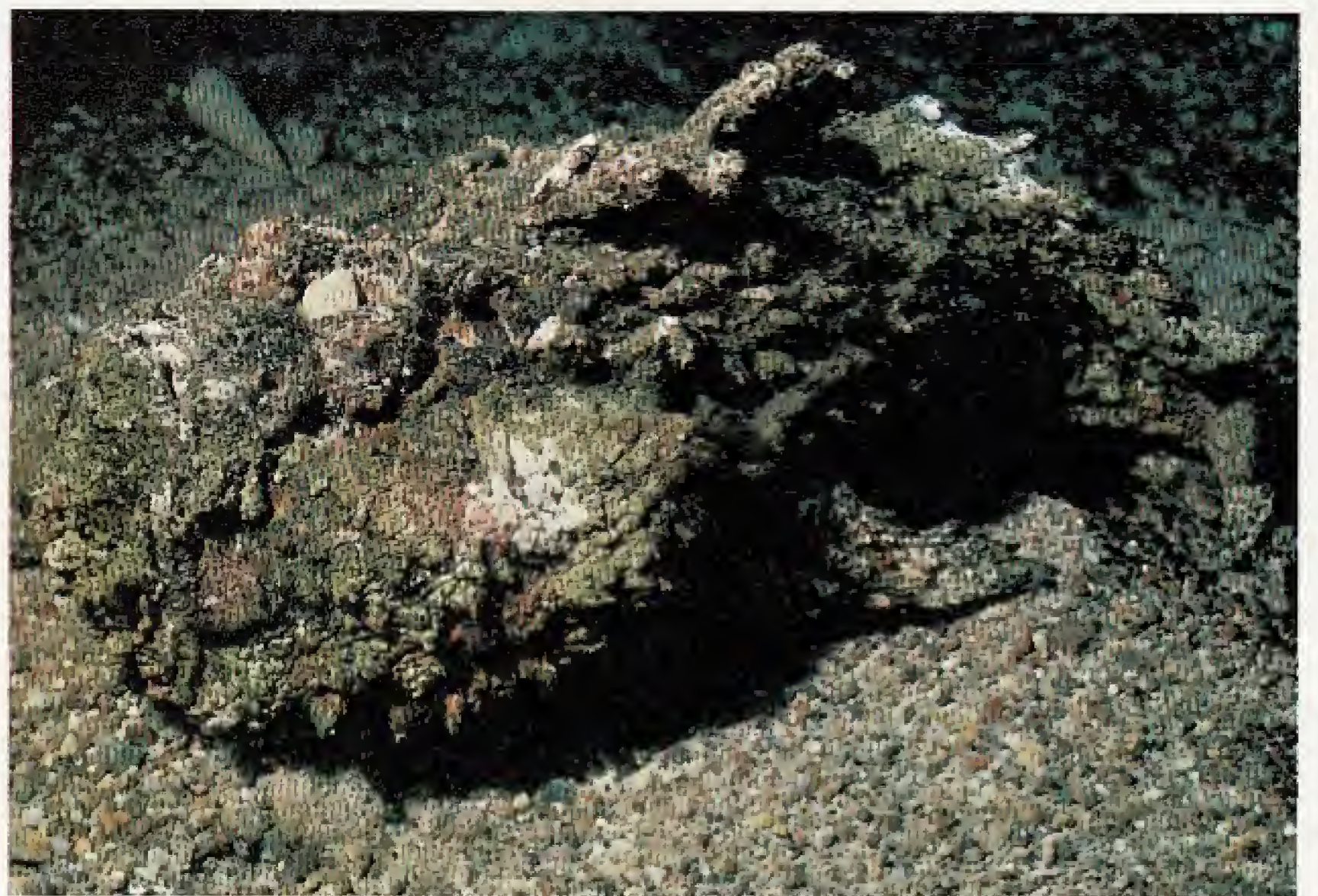
SEA SNAKE

## A few sea animals use poison for protection.

With its tail floating high,  
a sea snake pokes its head into the sand  
to look for fish eggs.

Animals do not attack this sea snake.  
Perhaps they know  
it has a very deadly poison.

The stonefish lies on the sea bottom  
looking as flat and harmless as a stone.  
But spines hidden on its back  
contain a very strong poison.



STONEFISH

The striped lionfish has long fins  
that look like ribbons. The fish is no longer  
than your foot, but it is poisonous, too.









CLOWNFISH

## Some sea animals help each other.

The tentacles of a sea anemone protect the little clownfish. When the clownfish is attacked, it rushes to the anemone for safety. If the attacker gets too close, the anemone stings and kills it. And both animals have something to eat.

Two sea anemones ride on a crab's shell. They cover the shell and make the crab harder to see. When the crab catches food, the anemones eat the leftovers.









**How very different  
are the animals  
that live in the sea!**

Dolphins surf  
in big ocean waves.  
The red feather star  
usually stays in one place.  
The sea turtle paddles  
through the water  
with its flippers,  
and the crab walks sideways  
on its eight legs.



FEATHER STAR



HAWKSBILL TURTLE





*BOTTLENOSED DOLPHINS*



*SOLDIER CRAB*

There are many other animals  
in the strange and beautiful  
ocean world.  
Each kind has  
its own way of living  
in the waters of the sea.





A wolffish hides  
in a space between two rocks.

*Published by The National Geographic Society*

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*Cover Photograph:* Stan Keiser, Sea Library

*Endpaper Photograph:* David Doubilet

**Library of Congress CIP Data**

Straker, Joan Ann, 1943- Animals that live in the sea. (Books for young explorers)

SUMMARY: An introduction to the characteristics and natural environment of a variety of creatures inhabiting the ocean.

1. Marine fauna—Juvenile literature. [1. Marine animals] I. Title. II. Series.

QL122.2.S8 591.9'2 77-95415 ISBN 0-87044-264-3



